

Alliant Questions and Answers

Alliant Relationship to Other Contracts

1. How will Alliant fit with the organizational specific vehicles requirements: DoD – DSIDDOMS III; VA – PCHS

Alliant is not a mandatory contract vehicle and each client, during its market research phase, should identify the best contract vehicle.

2. What are main differences between Alliant and Networkx scoping? You say Alliant is a broadly scoped IT contract vehicle. How does Networkx overlap and yet support GSA's GWAC family?

Networkx is a primarily telecommunications carrier service contract and Alliant is primarily an IT Solutions contract and does not provide line service.

3. How will GSA determine which contract (Alliant or Alliant SB) new work will be placed?

The determination will be made by the ordering office and in accordance with regulations.

4. How will GSA market Alliant separate from the efforts of contract holders?

The GWAC Center will contact its existing GWAC clients and alert them of the availability of the Alliant contract. Other methods include GSA Expo, Website information, and contract training programs.

5. Alliant is a follow-on to ANSWER and Millennia (Contract Review Board). Conforming DRFP SOW technical areas to ANSWER & Millennia there is only a 50% match at best. Will those SOW areas be incorporated in final RFP?

Alliant is a new contract vehicle and incorporates best practices from other existing GWACs.

6. Has Satellite Telecommunications been eliminated from the Alliant Solicitation in its entirety in order to allow the GSA Networkx Solicitation to cover Satellite Telecommunications?

Alliant contract does not include Satellite Telecommunications support areas.

7. What data can GSA provide regarding agency utilization of Alliant to support its \$50B ceiling?

Historical figures from expiring GWACs, customer agency future requirements, and an anticipated growth rate are used to project the ceiling of Alliant.

8. Has the Government determined which of the functional areas will be designated as Alliant versus Alliant SB? It is anticipated that Alliant SB will be sub-set of the Alliant requirements, or will Alliant SB have unique requirements?

The Alliant scope is for all information technology services and is not broken down by functional areas. The Alliant SB Section C has functional areas. The contracts are separate and will be evaluated separately.

9. When an agency issued a task order, can they issue it to both Alliant and Alliant Small Business awardees?

The determination will be made by the ordering office and in accordance with regulations. It is not envisioned that a customer would use both vehicles for the same requirement.

10. Can you explain how GSA came up with \$50B as the ceiling for Full and Open and \$15B for SBA?

See answer to Question 7.

11. If an Alliant SB awarded team grows over the \$21M size standard will they automatically be awarded an Alliant GWAC? If not what is the process?

Alliant SB and Alliant have different contract terms and conditions. A small business must win an award of the Alliant GWAC in order to participate for Alliant Task Orders.

12. When would Alliant serve as a preferred alternative to the GSA IT Schedule?

Alliant is another alternative that our customers can utilize when awarding their IT service requirements.

13. Which agencies does GSA anticipate using Alliant the most?

We cannot anticipate any explicit usage pattern for the Alliant contracts, but it may follow the pattern of earlier GWACs.

14. During the overlap period, will Millennia and ANSWER be phased out, or will all feeder vehicles remain available?

Three months after Alliant is awarded, no new task orders will be issued under the existing GWACs. However existing task orders will remain active.

15. We urge GSA to consider Alliant and Alliant SB to have 40-40 targeted award numbers.

In order to continue to offer our government customers a streamlined and efficient way to award IT service requirements it is important that that GSA provide its customers with a

manageable number of industry partners to compete for its requirements. GSA believes that the proposed approximate number of awardees will allow for our customers to continue to capitalize on these efficiencies.

16. What will be the key differences between Alliant and Millennia Lite? What about between Alliant and 8(a) STARS?

Alliant is broadly defined information technology scope is not broken down into functional areas like Millennia Lite and the 8(a) STARS program.

17. It seems that a small business is incentivized to propose under Alliant vs. Alliant SB, since it could lose the Alliant SB contract in a few years. Is that your intent?

Small businesses are invited to submit proposals for Alliant, Alliant SB or both.

18. Please clarify whether an offeror may submit both a Prime Bid and a bid as a subcontractor to another offeror under the Alliant full and open competition and small business contract. If so, may an offeror be awarded both a Prime contract and a subcontract with another successful offeror? Can both contracts be retained? What are the Prime/Subcontractor rules for teaming?

Alliant has no restriction regarding being both a prime and a subcontractor under Alliant. A contractor can compete under both the Alliant and Alliant SB since both GWACs are stand-alone contracts.

19. How will GSA encourage agencies to use Alliant/Alliant SB?

Alliant is a non-mandatory contract vehicle. GSA will advertise the advantages of using this contract, which is consistent with how GSA markets its other contracts.

20. Will there be any type of pre-qualification process either the Alliant SB or Alliant? If so, what are they?

All Offerors submitting in response to the Alliant solicitation will be evaluated in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Section L.

21. What is the purpose of having different NAICS codes for Alliant SB and Alliant and does this put capable small business teams at a disadvantage?

Alliant and Alliant SB have the same NAICS code but Alliant is broadly defined IT scope. Alliant SB has two (2) functional areas.

22. How is the Alliant contract different from the GSA Networx contract that will be coming out soon?

Alliant offers complex integration services and Networx is predominately a telecommunications service contract.

23. Why are there no sharing provisions for state and local? This would provide facility for technology collaboration.

The Information Schedule 70 is the only is the only authorized contract vehicle that allows for state and local government participation.

24. Will the awards for both Alliant SB and Alliant happen simultaneously or will they be staggered?

The number of proposals received for each GWAC will determine the timeline.

25. Can a company bid as a prime on Alliant and then as a sub on Alliant SB? Can a company be a sub on multiple primes' proposals?

Yes, a company can bid as a prime on Alliant and as a subcontractor on Alliant Small Business. Yes, a company can be a subcontractor on multiple Alliant primes.

26. Will Alliant SB Contractors be allowed to bid on Alliant RFPs?

No. Alliant SB Primes cannot bid on Alliant Task Orders, unless they are proposed as a subcontractor.

27. If a small business is a sub on an Alliant Prime that wins a contract, can that small business still compete on the Alliant SB RFP as a Prime?

Yes, Alliant and Alliant Small Business are stand-alone contracts.

28. Will large businesses be allowed to bid Alliant and bid as a sub-contractor on Alliant SB?

Alliant and Alliant SB are two separate contracts. Set-aside rules for small business participation apply to the Alliant SB.

29. Is there a difference between Alliant - managed by the Enterprise GWAC Center, and the Alliant Small Business (SB) managed by the SB GWAC Center?

Alliant scope is broadly defined information technology scope and Alliant Small Business is segregated into functional areas.

30. I would like to verify some information I read in a Washington Technology article released 2/11/2005. It stated that - "The Alliant contracts consolidate six government wide vehicles: Access Certificates for Electronic Services, Applications 'N Support for Widely Diverse End-User Requirements (Answer), Disaster Recovery, Millennia, Safeguard and Virtual Data Center." Is this correct? The original information on GSA's website stated it consolidated only Millennia and Answer.

Alliant is a brand new contract vehicle taking the best practices of various agency GWACs and does not directly replace GSA's smaller contract vehicles. However the Contract Vehicle Review Board determined that Alliant and Alliant Small Business would replace the ANSWER and Millennia.

31. What would the advantage be to us to try for the GWAC?

The GWAC is another type of contract vehicle in a portfolio of contracts offered by the Federal Supply Service and offers industry an opportunity to provide solutions to its complex IT requirements.

32. Are you going to address midsize small businesses in your acquisition strategy?

Alliant is a competitive procurement and all firms, small and other than small, will be given equal consideration for award.

33. What are the qualitative distinctions between the Alliant program and the Schedule 70 program? As an IT services contractor, why would I need an Alliant contract if I already have a Schedule 70 contract? Can I have different offerings under Alliant than I have under Schedule 70?

The Alliant terms and conditions are different than those in the Schedule 70. Alliant scope is broadly defined IT scope and contractors will be required to support "all" those IT scope. Schedule 70 contracts are commercial in nature, see FAR Part 12.

34. Is it required that a contractor be on the GSA schedule to participate in the Alliant procurement?

There is no requirement for a company to be on Schedule to participate on the Alliant procurement.

Experience

1. Section L.9.1 – Is there a page limitation on any matrixes?

Instructions will be provided in the release of the final RFP for filling out the Experience Matrix.

2. Section L-11 tab 5 – Corp. Exp/Matrix requires that contractor identify "any" contract for IT services performed in the last 5 years. Does GSA really want "any" task order or can the contractor limit the number?

The final RFP will provide clarification.

3. Section J, Attachment A. It is recommended that you change the numbering to be consistent between the items described in Sections C.3 and C.4 and the corresponding row in Section J, Attachment A, the Corporate Experience Matrix starting on page 2.

Your suggestion is under consideration and the Government will make changes accordingly.

4. How will GSA validate the contract numbers entered in Attachment J.1 and assess their relevance to the SOW? Is there a limit on the amount of contract number that can be cited?

Attachment J.1 will be revised.

5. The corporate experience matrix requires the bidder to identify specific contract. Are we to assume tasks orders are tracked separately and not rolled into one contract for limitation purposes?

The table will be revised to allow for work preformed under Contracts and/or Task orders.

6. Due to the large number of contract numbers for major prime contractors, by the use of the word “ANY”, does GSA expect us to complete the corporate experience matrix for all contracts performed in the last 5 years? For large corporations, this represents a considerable number of contracts. (L-11 Tab 5)

The Corporate Experience Table requires that only one contract number be identified per IT Support Area.

7. Section L, Paragraph L.11, Tab 5, Corporate Experience Matrix. This paragraph provides, in part, “The Corporate Experience Matrix shall cross-reference any prior contract numbers that the Offeror performed under within the last five years to the major information technology support areas identified in Section C of this solicitation.” The offeror assumes that there is a maximum number of contract references that will be requested. Please quantify the number of prior contract references required for each support area.

The Offeror is required to list one contract number per technology area.

8. The evaluation of management experience is omitted in Section M. It seems that to be successful a prime must have strong management experience and proven contract management procedures for a contract of this scope with potentially large number of subs.

The three elements of the technical evaluation in Phase 1, Subfactors (a) and (b) (Risk Management Plan Corporate Experience Matrix and Past Performance) encompass the management issues referred to.

9. The government suggests that it will limit the depth of corporate experience submitted and the number of past performance references. If the government isn't going to use these factors to separate finalists from bidders, what will they use instead?

Evaluation criteria are set forth in Section M.4. Corporate experience and past performance are an important evaluation factors.

10. Section J, Attachment A. It is recommended that the Corporate Experience Matrix, include Contract No. column AND a customer agency.

Your suggestion is under consideration and the Government will make changes accordingly.

11. L.11, Tab 5 and Attachment A – Is it the Government's intention that only the prime contractor list corporate experience, or can the capability matrix include the "team" efforts?

The Corporate Experience Table is being reviewed.

12. Section J, Attachment A. Prior to release of the draft RFP, GSA has, in various public forums, strongly encouraged the formation of contractor teams to meet the technical and geographic scope of Alliant. We have formed such a team, with the full capability to meet every potential Alliant requirement. Phase 2 of the draft RFP does recognize the benefits of a strong contractor team; however, Phase 1 seems inconsistent with both the above and appears to prohibit any expression of the entire team's capability. Specifically, it appears that very relevant past performance of our subcontractor team members may not be used in the Experience Matrix, Section J, Attachment A. In order to incorporate and evaluate the full team capability, we request that the Government allow Alliant Team members to cite past experience in Phase 1, Tab 5 Corporate Experience Matrix and Tab 6 Past Performance.

The Corporate Experience Table is being reviewed.

Evaluation

1. It has been stated approximately 20 awards will be given. Is there a limit of 20 or may there be more?

The 20 awards is an approximate number determined to meet adequate competition and to ensure a streamlined and efficient process for awarding IT service requirements. The Government has the right to award more than 20 Offerors determined to be most highly qualified.

2. Section L.10, Phase 2, Tab 5 – Are we correct in assuming the 3-page limit is for synopsis of our corporate compensation plan, full plan to be provided outside the page limit?

There is no page limit.

3. What is the timeframe for final RFP release?

GSA anticipates releasing the draft RFP in late July; however, based on industry comments received the release maybe delayed ~~slightly~~.

4. Approximately when will the proposal for Alliant be due?

Approximately, 60 calendar days after posting the final RFP.

5. In our litigious society, big companies make big targets for lawsuits. The indemnification will force large companies to either obtain insurance, which will affect rates, accept risk in a law margin environment, or no bids. This has the effect of favoring smaller companies with little to lose. Is this intentional?

The same criteria will be used to evaluate each and every offer.

6. Section M does not appear to have corresponding evaluation criteria for Section L, Phase 2, Volume 1, Tabs 1 through 5. Please clarify.

Section L, Phase 2, Volume 1, Tabs 1-5 is Pass/Fail. The changes will be made.

7. Reference L.10, M.3.2, and M.3.3 Phase I and Phase II. For planning purposes would GSA clarify the length of time provided between the Phase I submission, the down select, and Phase II submission?

Phase 1 is the longer of the 2 phases and will take considerable time to evaluate. The Offerors determined to be the most competitive will be invited to participate in Phase 2.

8. Would appreciate a clarification regarding Section M of the Evaluation Factors for Award. M.1 states that "Each awardee shall be capable of providing the complete range of technical support services required in Section C of this solicitation." Would a company interested in pursuing a Small Business Award be expected to provide all of those criteria on its own, or would the company have the opportunity to decline or subcontract those services.

Alliant is designed to provide Government agencies comprehensive solutions to their IT requirements, through a single contract. To reach this objective, each contract must offer the full line of the required services as listed in the Schedule." An offeror can meet this objective through its own resources or through teaming with complementary companies.

9. What is the timeline for the Phase 1 notification (i.e. Phase 2 submission)?

An acquisition schedule will be provided in the final RFP. The Government will allow ample time for Industry Partners to submit Phase 2 proposals.

10. Will there be orals for Phase I or Phase II?

GSA will advise if oral presentations will be required.

11. As part of the evolution process, do you anticipate evaluating a vendor's ability to generate business under Alliant, or their approach to marketing Alliant post-award?

Refer to the evaluation criteria.

12. Will GSA place considerable weight to the strength of the prime over the capabilities of the team when making source selection?

The past performance and technical capability of the prime and the subcontracts will be considered.

13. Section M says past performance reports not returned (by the bidder's customer) will result in rejection. This seems to unjustly penalize the bidder for circumstances beyond its control.

This section is being revised.

14. Will teams composed of SBA 8(a) companies be given preference points in the evaluation process?

Alliant is a full and open competition and all Offerors are evaluated equally.

15. Section M does not provide for the evaluation of an Offeror's approach to contract administration and program management. (Critical functions for the effective and efficient operation of a dynamic IDIQ contract like Alliant). In addition, a contractor's ability to manage and provide global capability is a prerequisite to effectively manage subcontractors.

The evaluation of Contract Management and Program Management will be addressed in the final RFP.

16. Have the Evaluation factors and Proposal requirements been drafted yet for either Alliant SB and Alliant?

The evaluations factors for Alliant and Alliant SB can be found in the DRFP, Section M of the solicitations.

17. The RFP states that the contractor "... requesting in whole or in part from the willful, negligent, or careless acts or omissions of the contract ...". The inclusion of the word "careless" is subject to individual interpretations and can place undue risk and cost exposure on the contractor. Would GSA accept compliance with FAR clauses XXXX as an alternative?

The Government will review your suggestion.

18. The RFP states, "the Offeror shall submit their corporate level risk management plan and an actual risk management plan for the past or current task order..." Section L.10 limits the Offeror

response to 15 pages. Since our corporate plan alone exceeds the 15-page limit, can the Offeror provide a summary description of the plan and its application on a past or current task order to stay within the 15-page limit?

The existence of complete corporate documents would be considered and that out side documents can be cited by reference.

19. Section L.11 Phase 1, Tab 4, Risk Management Plan. This section states “The Offeror shall submit their corporate level risk management plan and an actual task management plan for a past or current task order with a total value of at least \$3,000,000.00 per year.” Since this is a section focused on the evaluation of the quality of the offeror’s Risk Management Plan (Corporate and individual), it is not clear what the rationale is for the \$3M per year minimum figure for the task order related to the submitted actual plan. We suggest the above sentence be revised to read: “The Offeror shall submit its corporate level risk management plan and an actual risk management plan for the significant past or current project. Include the total value of the project.”

The \$3M represents the minimum value of the project.

20. Section L.11 Phase 1, Tab 4, Risk Management Plan. This section states, “Offeror shall also provide the associated SOW, contract number, and Government point of contact.” The associated SOW could be a lengthy document, yet this section is page limited. We request that the government rephrase that page limits for Tab 4 to exclude the associated SOW from the page count.

This section is being revised.

21. Section M.4.1, Factor 1, Subfactor (a) Risk Management Plan (RMP) mentions “industry standards” and “established components” for the corporate risk management plan. Can you clarify, and provide citations for, the “industry standards” and “established components” that will be used to evaluate the corporate risk management plan.

This section is being revised.

22. Section L.11, Tab 4 – Requirement asks for a Risk Management Plan for a past or current task order over \$3M. Should this read “for a past or current project or contract” or must the past performance be for a task order issued on an IDIQ type contract such as GSA Answer?

Alliant Section L.11 Tab 4 will be revised.

23. The order of importance established in M.3.2 ranks Risk Management as more important than Past Performance. While Risk Management is a critical capability for successful contract performance, we recognize both Experience and Past Performance as more accurate indicators of a contractor’s success in contract performance.

The Government will evaluate your suggestion.

24. It was stated yesterday by GSA that this contract is for IT services and not to be used as a telecommunications contract vehicle. Section H.15 states, “Alliant is a “Solutions Contract”. A solutions contract encompasses all aspects of IT from the analysis of hardware/software implementation to ongoing operational support of an IT solution.” Section C.23 seems in conflict with Section H.15 in that it calls for, “The planning, analysis, troubleshooting, integration, acquisition, installation, operations, maintenance, training, documentation, and administration services for all types of data networks....”We recommend that Section C.23 be modified to reference the other telecommunications contract vehicle to be used when telecommunications is required.

Alliant is not a telecommunications or a carrier service contract. Alliant is a labor service contract.

25. Sections C.3.3 and C.3.4 – What are the support tasks that the contractor will be expected to perform to support the CIO/CTO?

This will be defined at the Task Order level.

Joint Venture/Teaming

1. Can you team with more than one prime in each category of Alliant and Alliant SB?

Yes

2. How should small businesses proceed to hook up with large business primes on Alliant? Is there a mechanism for small to be introduced to larges?

Alliant provides for the Small Business Outreach Program so that small businesses can meet with “other than small business” entities awarded an Alliant contract. Small businesses are encouraged to register for the Subcontracting/Teaming list available on the Alliant website.

3. Will there be a limit on the number of teams a small business can join?

There is no limit to the number of teams a business can join on Alliant.

4. Section G.9.3 – Paragraph five the same paragraph references the Contractor Teaming Arrangement (CTA) as defined in FAR 9.6. It is our understanding that FAR 9.6 CTA applies to Federal Supply Schedules only. Please clarify its applicability to Alliant.

Alliant is not a schedules contract and FAR 9.6 applies to Alliant.

5. Section M – Please confirm that the Past Performance and Corporate Experience of Joint Venture partners will be evaluated the same as a single company prime contractor.

Past performance will be evaluated pursuant to 15.305-(a)(2).

6. For joint ventures, will a new legal entity be required to bid as a “joint venture” with capitalization requirements from the partners?

Information regarding the joint venture can be found in Federal Acquisition Regulation 19.101.

7. Can a small business bid on Alliant (not Alliant SB) as a prime or as part of a joint venture?

Yes

8. Please elaborate on what is required/desired in “team composition”. It appears that this is separate from the subcontractor team and that only the prime’s qualifications are considered.

The team composition requires that you provide some detail of the team member’s technical capabilities in meeting the IT scope requirements. Teaming under this solicitation refers to both prime/subcontractor relationships or joint venture relationships as described in FAR Part 9.6.

9. Section L.12, Phase 2, Vol I, Tab 4 – Contractors typically establish teaming agreements during acquisition phase and execute subcontract after award. Will dates of teaming agreements satisfy the requirement?

Team composition is evaluated in Phase 2. Teaming agreements will require a date.

10. Describe the importance to team composition to have an incumbent Millennia or ANSWER contractor.

All Offerors will be evaluated equally regardless of the Offeror’s involvement under Millennia or ANSWER.

- 11: Do you have to be on the "Interested Parties" to respond to the Solicitation?

No, a company does not need to be on the Teaming/Subcontracting List (previously known as the Interested Parties list) to respond to the solicitation. The list is for companies that want to subcontract/team with other interested companies.

12. How will teams of small businesses be judged on size? Combined sales? Prime sales?

Small Business Offerors under Alliant will be judged per FAR Part 19 size standards.

Past Performance

1. Section L.11, Tab 6 – Can we submit Past Performance Summaries for federal, state, local government and commercial?

Past performance summaries can be submitted for federal, state, local government and commercial entities

2. Please clarify what is meant by “project”. Provide examples. Please provide clarification of the criteria that will be used to assess how well the “projects” selected for past performance related to Section C; i.e. will the method used be based on how many of the C.2 items are performed on the past performance “project?”

A project can be a task order issued under a master contract, such as ITOPII, Commits, ANSWER.

3. To meet the intent of Performance Based Contracting, it is understood that during the Period of Performance each contractor will determine and offer the complement of labor skills to best meet individual task requirements. However, in order for Offerors to propose personnel with comparable qualifications and experience for cost evaluation purposes, would the Government consider providing further definition or distinction within the Section J, Attachment B Position Descriptions?

The Government is in the process of reevaluating the position descriptions.

4. Section C.1.0 Scope – Section C.2.1 through C.4.13.2 contains a detailed breakdown of services and solutions to support the IT life-cycle that may evolve over the life of Alliant. In addition, the offeror is requested, in section L.11 Tab 6, to provide five citations of prime contracts. In order for the Offerors to present the most compelling and most relevant past performance information, it is requested that the SOW areas be ranked – perhaps in categories of relevance – from most important to least important – or by a numbering scheme, by how critical they are to Alliant, or their anticipated degree of use in future Alliant orders. This ranking would help Offerors select the most germane past performance. It is also requested that the anticipated level-of-effort (percentage by functional area) be provided to allow industry an opportunity to gauge its qualifications to submit a prime contract under the current evaluation criteria defined in Section M of the DRFP. A historical perspective of how these functional areas have been ordered up in the past for the prior contracts (i.e., Millennia, ANSWER) would also be helpful.

The Past Performance will be evaluated on its relevancy to the Alliant scope and currency. The requested data is not available.

5. The first entry (Evaluation Type) in the Contractor Past Performance Assessment form (Section J, Attachment C) requests the information “Interim” or “Final”. L.11, Tab 6 states that: “the past performance information submitted must relate to projects performed that were completed within the last three years.” This seems to be in conflict. Can contractors reference contracts that are currently performing on?

Yes, the Past Performance Assessment form can be for active or completed projects. The RFP will be revised to correct this discrepancy.

6. The Alliant Draft RFP notes in Section L: Page 13, Tab 6 – Past Performance Information – The past performance information submitted must relate to projects performed that were completed within the last three years, are valued at \$3 million or more and relate to the work described under Section C of this solicitation. Page 17, Tab 7 – SF294 – Offeror shall submit most recent SF294 for information technology contracts worth \$3 million or more. The question is, are the aforementioned regarding a single award or growing award (i.e. an award with option years)?

The total value does not take into consideration follow-on requirements.

7. Section L, paragraph L.11, Tab 6, Past Performance info paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 13 indicate that the past performance references should be for work that was completed within the last 3 years. Subparagraph (b) on page 14, however, asks the Offerors to identify whether the project is active or completed. Please confirm that the past performance citations may be for projects completed within the past three years or projects that are active, where the prime is currently performing.

The projects cited can be for both completed and active task orders.

8. Section L, Paragraph L.11, Tab 6, Past Performance Information. Paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 13 indicate that the past performance references should be for work that was completed within the last three years. Subparagraph b) on page 14, however, asks that the Offerors to identify whether the project is active or completed. Please confirm that the past performance citations may be for projects completed within the last three years or projects that are active, where the prime is currently performing.

The Past Performance Assessment form can be for active or completed projects. The RFP will be revised to correct this discrepancy.

9. Reference Section L, page 13, paragraph L.11, Tab 6, 3rd paragraph. Assume that the value of \$3,000,000 or more is “per year” based on the size and scope of tasks that would be awarded under the Alliant contract. Is the assumption correct?

The \$3M or more is the total value for a project for information technology services, including the options.

10. Section L-10 Tab 6 limits the Past Performance submission to 15 pages for 5 summaries. L-11 Tab 6 establishes specific content requirements for the Past Performance Summaries. Section J Attachment C –Past Performance Information Sheet provides (same and additional) requirements for Past Performance. We can achieve the page limits for L-10 Tab 6 requirements. Addressing additional Section J Attachment C requirements would drive us beyond the 15-page limit. Is the J Attachment C submission excluded from the page count requirement?

The Attachment C submission is excluded from the page count limit.

11. Section L.11, Tab 6, M.4.1 – Past Performance Questionnaires go from solicited government representative to the contracting officer. If the questionnaires are not delivered to the contracting officer by the proposal due date, then the bidder's proposal will be non-compliant. This makes the bidder responsible for the actions of the government. Can you set a deadline in the RFP for the bidder to send out the questionnaires and, as long as that deadline is met, accept the proposal?

The Government will review your suggestion and make changes in the final RFP.

12. Section J, Attachment C. There are two different descriptions of the information for the fifteen-page Phase 1, Tab 6, Past Performance section. Section J, Attachment C, Past Performance Information Sheet has a detailed, two-page description of what to include in the proposal. Section L, Phase 1, Tab 6 Past Performance Information has a DIFFERENT, detailed, two-page description of the material required for this section. Please clarify which instructions apply.

Attachment C applies. Alliant Section L will be revised to clarify the instructions for submitting past performance information.

13. Section L.11, Tab 6 – Regarding past performance, are Prime Contractors expected to evaluate a subcontractor's performance? Will the government client be the only evaluator? If the prime is allowed to be an "evaluator" of past performance and is also an Alliant bidder, will you mitigate any potential conflict of interest?

The government client as well as the GSA government evaluation team will evaluate the offeror's submission

14. Section L, tab 6 – Paste Performance Information - The value of \$3M or more seems small. Will GSA consider increasing it?

No.

Pricing Issues

1. The RFP does not contain any language on the requirements for submitting costs proposals.

This will be reflected in the final RFP.

2. Section H.6 – Will the government pay all associated costs for getting security clearances for contractor personnel?

No, in accordance with Section B.6 the "fully burdened" labor rates shall include ALL direct, indirect, general and administrative costs and profit associated with providing the required skill.

3. Section B.10 – Please clarify the inclusion of construction as an “Other Cost Element”. Is the Government requesting a ceiling rate that an IT firm might apply to construction services or materials?

The Alliant RFP is requesting a ceiling-handling rate that would be applied to this cost element.

4. Reference Section B, page 3, paragraph B.6a which establishes what will be included in the fully burdened labor rates, subparagraph (2) states in part "This includes, but is not limited to, telephones, facsimile machines and their telecommunications lines, copiers, personal computers, postage (to include courier services such as Federal Express), ordinary business software, such as word processors, spreadsheets, graphics, etc., normal copying and reproduction costs. "If the intent of this provision is to disallow all similar other direct costs as separately billable amounts, actual auditable ODC charges charged consistent with a contractors disclosed and approved accounting practices must be followed in invoicing actual costs on cost plus type contracts.

Contractors should follow their disclosure statement. However, for T&M type Task Orders, these costs are to be included in the fully burdened hourly labor rates.

5. Please clarify the contract access fee?

Contract Access Fee is stated in the RFP G.13.2.2.

6. Section B.8 – Please clarify the BLS ECI that will be used in the extrapolation of option rates. Since the index is a labor index, how will Government evaluate potential increase/decrease in indirect rates?

The percentage adjustment is made to the fully loaded contract rates, not just to the base wages. There is no presumption of a change to the overhead or G&A rates.

7. Any specific accounting and purchasing practices recommended?

Accounting and Purchasing practices should be in accordance with DCAA practices.

8. An approved CAS system is required. For purposes of Phase 1, can its implementation be in process?

The CAS rules as defined in FAR Appendix 9903.201 are applicable to this solicitation.

9. Will the Contract Access Fee be applied to ODC's and travel? If so, can the CAF be included in price and cost responses?

The Contract Access Fee is applied to labor only.

10. Reference Section B, page 3, paragraph B.8 states, "The base period Year Five rates will be extrapolated out to years six through ten automatically by the Government for proposal

evaluation purposes" and "The actual ceiling rates for Option Period One (1) will be determined by escalating the proposed Year Five (5) ceiling rates...". However, Section B, Page 5, Paragraph B.9 requests that contractors propose rates in Table A "for each of the 10 years" and states, "These rates represent ceiling rates that shall be applied to Task Orders." Will the Government please clarify whether paragraph B.8 or B.9 applies?

The Section B instructions will be clarified and revised when the final solicitation is released.

11. Section L.11 – Tab 9 of this section requests “full backup documentation for each CLIN and proposed Task Area.” Is the Government requesting labor rate detail by cost component for each labor rate proposed? If so, is this required for each contract year? What is required for the cost breakdown that includes “summary” totals for each cost component? Since labor rates are exclusive of “material and equipment costs”, what support information is the Government requesting here. What is meant by “proposed Task Area”?

Section L.11 Tab 9 is being revised to provide further submission instructions.

12. Section B, Paragraph B.6a(3), On-Site (Government Site) Rates. The second sentence provides “The Offerors shall propose all hourly rates based on a 40 hour work week (2080) per year.” Is 2080 considered one FTE? If so, 2080 hours doesn’t account for leave and overstates proposed hours. Please clarify if the Off-site (contractor site) rates (paragraph 2) should contain the same provisions.

The Final RFP will offer more clarification.

13. Section B.8.1 states that the Government will make a one-time contract escalation adjustment for the option period based on the five (5) previous full years of Employment Cost Index (ECI) data. Will the Government’s calculation result in a single fixed rate per labor category for the full five-year option period, or will the fixed rates be calculated for each of the five (5) years in the option period?

The escalation rate will be fixed per labor category and calculated for each of the five years in the option period.

14. Section B.8 states that the Government will automatically extrapolate the rates for years six (6) through 10 for proposal evaluation purposes. Section B.9 Pricing Tables request the Offeror to supply rates for each of the 10 years. Why is the Offeror required to supply rates that will not be used for evaluation purposes or for future pricing?

The contractor will be required to fully price the base and option year pricing for purposes of the evaluation.

15. Section B.9 – The second paragraph states, “the per diem allowance has been addressed above.” The above paragraph merely provides the U.S. Department of State website. Did the Government intend to further address the per diem allowance?

The State Department Index provides the per diem allowance.

16. Section B.9 – The second paragraph states, “other allowances are not allowable under this contract.” What are the “other allowances” and why are they not allowable? Are quarters allowance, COLA allowances, relocation allowances, etc., allowable for personnel assigned permanently OCONUS under this contract especially if in accordance with an Offeror’s Disclosure Statement? Is the Government stating that these expenses are not allowable as a direct charge? Can they be included as an indirect charge?

Costs incurred which are covered in the description of State Department allowances may only be reimbursed to the level of the State Department allowance. The applicability of these costs will be determined at the order level.

17. Section B.9, Fully Loaded Labor Rate Table – this section indicates that the referenced EXCEL spreadsheets are to be provided by the Government as an Attachment to the solicitation for completion by the Offeror. However, no such EXCEL Attachment was provided or listed in Section J. (It appears that the Attachment was provided in pdf.format). Will the Government provide the attachment in draft form in an EXCEL spreadsheet and include in Section J of the final solicitation?

An excel spreadsheet will be provided at the final RFP.

18. There are 99 labor categories on the Alliant. As a “total solution” am I required to submit a cost proposal for each labor category whether it be a prime or using a sub? In other words, can I not offer/propose a labor category for services that do not fall under what my company does? (i.e., we do not have any voice communications/telecommunications positions since that is not what we do). Under the Alliant, am I to sub to XX who does voice communications which in turn provides a total solution or do I not offer voice communications in my proposal?

Alliant is a labor service contract and not a carrier service contract. An Offeror provides the hourly labor rates only to those skill levels identified in Section B. Offerors will be required to bid on every labor categories and if subcontracted, the names of the subcontractor/teaming partner are to be identified along with the labor category price.

19. Section B.6.a – Will there be regional adjusted rates for T&M and Labor Hour tasks?

No, Offerors should submit the highest ceiling rate for CONUS work to meet any IT requirement in Section C.

20. Section B.6 Services and Prices/Costs – Labor – It appears that the government’s intent is to burden each individual labor category with an overhead that would correlate to both CONUS and OCONUS locations. If this is the case, the government will likely increase the overall cost for Alliant work for the relatively low percentage of work to be performed OCONUS. Therefore, it is recommended that the government consider requesting Offerors to prepare one schedule of

rates for CONUS and another for OCONUS, or to propose a factor for the differential between CONUS and OCONUS rates.

GSA does not intend on applying an OCONUS burden rate. The Offeror will propose the OCONUS rates at the Task Order Level by applying the Department of State index for overseas locations. The high majority of the work is anticipated to be CONUS.

21. Section B.6 Services and Prices/Costs – Please clarify how ceiling rates will apply, if at all, when pricing FFP or Cost Plus task orders.

The rates to establish the FFP cannot exceed the ceiling price.

22. Section B.6 – Table A Consultant Labor Category. It does not appear that any differentiation is provided for the Consultant labor category (e.g., there is no listing of levels such as Consultant I, Consultant II, etc.) to provide for more than one level of expertise (Section B, p. 6 and Attachment B, p. 7). If there is to be a change of this category to add differentiation, then this new breakdown should also be reflected elsewhere in the RFP (e.g., IT Support Areas (Section C, p. 2)).

Alliant requires the highest ceiling price to be paid for the primary labor category.

23. Section B.10 – Other Cost Elements – The table contained in this section provides an estimated value for supplies, travel, construction, and ODCs for evaluation purposes only but requires the offeror to propose a ceiling handling rate % for each cost element. Is it the government's intent to establish a maximum ceiling handling charge percentage for each company, for each cost element, that will exist for the life of the contract? If so, is not this rate subject to adjustments per DCAA reviews?

Yes, this rate is subject to adjustment per DCAA review. We are in discussion on this issue.

24. Section L.11 – Tab 8 of this section requests prices for each item in Section B to be rounded to the whole dollar. Section B prices include fully burdened labor rates by category that are normally presented in dollars and cents such as \$72.45. This Offeror assumes that the whole dollar reference refers only to extended amounts. Please verify that the Government anticipates pricing to two decimal places for each labor rate and whole dollars for extended amounts.

Pricing is rounded to the two decimal places. The RFP will be revised to reflect this change.

25. Section G.9.3, Invoices for Time & Material or Labor Hour Task Orders: In the fourth paragraph, the Government requires that the “handling costs” applied to direct materials as an indirect rate be a “separate cost pool clearly distinguished from the G&A and other indirect charges in the hourly rates”. Many contractors have a G&A rate that is applied to both labor and materials, with no duplication of costs to the Government. This statement would require the contractor to deviate from its disclosed practices, which have been approved and are audited by

DCAA, or to establish a new cost pool just for this Solicitation. The contractor suggests that the Government allow the contractors to use their standard G&A rate if that is their disclosed practice. The fifth paragraph requires all T&M invoices to include “the actual costs for all labor subcontracted”. This requirement raises several issues. Many contractors may create composite rates, i.e., a blend of their labor rates and their team members/subcontractors labor rates, for their T&M labor rates. Therefore, the total T&M rate is invoiced regardless of who performs under the rate or at what cost they perform. The statement implies that no fee or profit will be allowed on any subcontractors under a T&M task order. This may discourage contractors from using subcontractors, including small business subcontractors, under such orders. If the subcontractor is performing the intended or contracted labor, their charges should be part of the labor rate. The contractor should be allowed to bid composite rates, or if they choose not to, to make a reasonable profit on any subcontracted labor. The contractor requests that the Government remove this language from the solicitation.

Contract Clause 52.232-7 should be used.

26. Section G.7 – Indirect Cost Rates – Should the provisional and/or final indirect cost rates be submitted to our cognizant government audit activity, DCAA, who audits them and then is responsible for finalizing their negotiation for application to all government contracts?

See FAR 15.403-5

27. What will be the cost (Fee) for agencies to use this contract?

The Contract Access Fee is stipulated in Section G.13.2.2.

28. What is the expected response time to submit proposals for the phase 1 RFP and Phase 2 RFP? What process or how will these be done? Will only a down selected number be invited to submit Phase 2 proposals?

Industry Partners will be invited to participate in Phase 2, which will be based on the Phase 1 proposal submission.

Small Business Size Standard

1. Will you consider changing the subcontractor small business size requirement to include the NAICS code 541519, which is a small business size standard of under 150 employees?

The NACIS code is determined based on the predominate amount of work that is envisioned for this contract. Through consultation with the Small Business Administration it was determined that 541512 is the appropriate size standard for this procurement.

2. Will small business companies that have been recertified to be large companies at 5-year point compete on Alliant or Alliant SB from that point forward?

An Alliant prime small business that grows into “other than small business” will still maintain their Alliant contract and be allowed to compete for Alliant opportunities.

3. Why not consider some preference for small business? This would encourage use of smaller innovators and mentoring of the \$6M firms.

To ensure that small businesses have an opportunity to compete for government-wide IT service requirements GSA has also proposed the Alliant SB contract.

4. This Offeror recommends that the Government consider reserving a portion of the large business awards for mid-tier companies or for those companies with less than 1,500 employees. There needs to be some transitions for business once they outgrow the small business size standard. Understanding that this contract is not intended for telecommunications, the 1,500 number of employees-based size standard is consistent with other procurements (i.e., the Army’s ITES-2 and TEIS RFPs) with similar requirements. VOIP requirements, which are part of this scope, also align with a 1,500-person size standard. Alternatively or in addition, we recommend that the number of large business awards be increased to approximately 40 consistent with the number of small business awards. By incorporating reserved awards for mid-tier companies or by increasing the number of large business awards, GSA would be preserving the competitive environment sought and required by GSA and CICA, and would support mid tier participation.

Alliant is open to small, medium, and larger business. Approximate number of awards ensures fair opportunity principles are met and continues to support an efficient award process for our customers.

5. Will the first recertification for Size Standard occur at the end of the 5-year Base Period? Might GSA create an On-ramp period for the Alliant GWAC?

At the end of the contract base period (year 5), small businesses under Alliant will be required to recertify themselves as either a small or other than small business concern. Awardees will not be removed from the GWAC at the time of business size re-certification.

6. Small business goal: Can the Small Business Subcontracting Goal be met by companies that qualify for NAICS with greater than \$21M size standard?

No, companies cannot qualify as a small business for NAICS greater than \$21M size standard

7. Can you separate the interest parties’ lists into large businesses and small business? With the large number of companies it is difficult to find the large business.

This information is provided and you can sort by Business Size.

8. What is the target date for the 1st SB outreach meet and greet program?

Information on the Small Business Outreach Program will be made available after award of the contract.

9. If you are a large business that does not have an Alliant contract and you purchase a small business that does can they/you keep the contract? Would then recertify as large at the end of the base award?

See FAR 42.12

Subcontractor

1. Will Alliant LB's sub contracting plan need to specify specific 8(a) firms that will be used?

No, only that a percentage is required.

2. The requirement that 50% of subcontract work be with small business has the effect of deterring partnership/teaming between companies. This requirement flies in the face of the GSA claim to "encouraging teaming and partnership".

GSA's objective is to encourage partnership and to offer maximum opportunities to the small business community.

3. Given that there is already a separate procurement for small businesses, what was the rationale for 50% SB participation requirement for Alliant? This seems excessive and will discourage large business primes from including mid-size businesses on their teams.

Alliant is a stand-alone contract vehicle. As such Alliant strives to provide maximum small business opportunities.

4. How are Large Contractor/Primes rewarded for using small business subs? Do they get the same "points" for all Small Businesses or is there a different point scale for Small Businesses, 8(a)s, etc.?

Participation of small business and other socio-economic subcontractors will be considered under the evaluation plan: Paragraph M.3.3. For Phase II, "each offeror shall be evaluated relative to the following: Factor 1: Technical; Subfactor (a) Subcontracting Plan and SF294.

5. Due to the large number of information technology contracts for major prime contractors, will GSA provide additional guidance on the number of SF294s?

The final RFP will indicate the exact number of SF294 needed for the evaluation submission.

6. Is there a way to measure the utilization of small business on Alliant on a continuous basis? Many primes will sign on a small business to get the status quo, and then forget them.

Yes, Alliant will measure the utilization of Small Business on a continuous basis. The Alliant small business subcontracted dollars will be posted on a monthly basis to the Alliant website.

7. With the 50% small business-subcontracting goal it appears that midsize businesses will see very little participation in this GWAC. Will GSA consider lowering this goal to 35%?

The 50% small business-subcontracting goal is important to the Alliant strategy and ensures that the SB community has the opportunity to compete in complex IT requirements.

8. Does the “50% SB subcontracting” rule apply at the Alliant contract level or at the individual task award level?

It applies at the contract level.

9. If 50% of subcontracted dollars go to Small Businesses, why would large businesses team?

More than adequate opportunities will exist for all businesses to participate.

10. Minimum 50% SB element. What do you mean by “other than contract \$” can mentoring cost be included in subcontracting review evaluation?

No, mentoring costs cannot be included.

11. Have you considered that an RFP that requires primes to have across the board capabilities combined with a 50% SB goal tends to mitigate against subcontracting?

The small business subcontracting “figures” are stated in terms of “goals”.

12. How will GSA ensure that large businesses are meeting their small business subcontracting goals? If a large business chooses not to subcontract how will the SB contracting goals be realized?

Monitoring will occur as required per FAR 19.705-6

13. Section L.4 and L.12 – The 1st paragraph of Section L.4 states that Offerors shall submit a Subcontracting Plan with its initial offer. Section L.12 Tab 6 does not require the Subcontracting Plan to be submitted until Phase Two of the procurement. Please clarify.

A Small Business Subcontracting Plan is required in Phase 2. The RFP will be revised.

14. Section L.12, Tab 6, M.3.2 – Small Business Subcontracting plan with no page limitation seems to be confused with the table of page 11, which limits the Subcontracting Plan to 20

pages. M refers to Phase II evaluation of the Subcontracting Plan. Are you assigning a page limit only to the Subcontracting plan and is that the only one that is being evaluated?

The Small Business Subcontracting Plan should have no page limits. The RFP will be revised to reflect this change.

15. Section H.5 – If the contract is not able to meet small business subcontracting target goals, what effect will that have on the contractors' performance?

See FAR 19.705-7. GSA is also reviewing what penalties should be assessed for companies that consistently don't meet their small business subcontracting goal.

16. I understand that task orders under the Alliant GWAC will still have a requirement for SDB, WOSB, SDVOSB, and HUBZone SB. Is this correct?

Individual task orders may not be set-aside for SDB, WOSB, SDVOSB and HUBZone. See clause H.5

17. Section H.5, Small Business Subcontracting Goals – The chart indicates that the 50% goal for small business is inclusive of small disadvantaged and women-owned small business. Please confirm that this percentage also includes the goals for veteran-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned and HUB Zone small businesses.

Alliant allocates specific percentages to meet small business subcontracting goals for SDB, WOSB, SDVOSB and HUBZone.

18. Section I.2 – Seems to include a few clauses that are not applicable to an unrestricted procurement. Please verify the applicability of the following clauses: 52.219-3 Notice to Total HUB Zone Set-Aside, 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside, 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside Alternate I.

These clauses will be removed when the final RFP is issued.

19. Section J, Attachment H indicates SB commitments are consistent with FAR part 52.219-9, indicating that SB targets are based on subcontracted dollars, however section L tab 6 states "subcontracting goals shall be expressed in terms of percent of the contract value, not of subcontracted amount. Please clarify this inconsistency. In addition, the subcontract mix resulting from a 50% SB target may limit a primes ability to provide the optimal contracting solution to specific task requirements.

The final RFP will resolve the discrepancy. The Small Business Subcontracting Goals are a percentage of negotiated subcontracted dollar amounts and not of the contract value.

20. Section H.5, Small Business Subcontracting Goals – Given that GSA will have small business set-aside awards, please confirm that the percentages given are to be interpreted as a percentage of subcontracted dollars.

The Small Business Subcontracting Goals are a percentage of negotiated subcontracted dollar amounts and not of the contract value.

21. Section J, Attachment H, Small Business Subcontracting Plan Outline. This outline shows a requirement to provide both subcontracted dollars and percentages for various small business categories. Since the overall contract value is not known, it is requested that the offeror be permitted to leave the dollar estimated as blank or "to be determined" and be required to provide only percentages. If dollar estimates are to be provided, please provide a methodology to be used to estimate these figures.

Estimates can include historical figures achieved under similar IT service contracts, i.e. ANSWER, Millennia, and ITOP II.

22. Can a team member or subcontractor be brought on board at anytime after award of contract?

Yes, a team member or subcontractor be brought on board at anytime after award of contract

23. Historically, has there been a range of team size that has been most effective?

No

Scope

1. What fraction of Alliant will require international capabilities?

Historical data indicates approximately 10% but this could change under Alliant.

2. Please elaborate on the worldwide capacity requirements. What is the requirement or customer issue driving this?

Alliant anticipates that customers may have global requirements.

3. Is there any specific skill the Program Manager needs to have?

See Sect. H 17.1.1

4. Section G, page 9, paragraph G.13.2.1 states, "The contract status report shall reflect same dollar values reported on the Contractor Sales Reporting (see G.14)." Should this sentence reference G.13.2.2 instead of G.14?

The sentence should reference G.13.2.2

5. The RFP states that contractors will be paid after completion of all requirements for the task order. Will the contractor be entitled to define and submit invoices for Milestones payment?

The RFP states “Except as otherwise provided in a Task Order, the Contractor shall submit a proper invoice for each fixed price Task Order after completion of all requirements for the Task Order.”

6. Reference Section H, page 5, paragraph H.11. Assume that “all direct billable personnel” should be deleted from this section.

Maybe considered at the Task Order level.

7. Section H, page 6, paragraph H.15 Other Direct Costs states, "If the contractor initiates the purchase of ODCs within the scope of a TO tasking, the Contractor shall submit to the Government OCO a request to initiate purchase of such ODCs". May Contractors with certified approved purchasing systems notify, in accordance with FAR 52.244-2, rather than request to initiate purchase of ODCs? Please clarify

Maybe considered at the Task Order level.

8. Section H, page 8, paragraph H.17.1.2 Group Manager. The requirement for a dedicated, fulltime, and not separately priced Group Manager on a performance based contract impacts the contractor’s ability to manage effectively and reduce costs. With the exception of the ANSWER contract, to our knowledge, no other contract inside or outside GSA has the requirement for a GM on a worldwide contract. In addition, the requirement for a GM creates another level of management that is burdensome to both government and contractors and whose costs are indirectly billed to the Government through overhead rates. For example, on small efforts, one staff member dedicated to a management role would be in conflict with the project manager. It is recommended that this section be eliminated from the RFP.

The Government is reviewing your suggested change and any changes will be reflected in the Final RFP.

9. Section G.13 – Reporting Requirements – Given the performance-based environment, it would appear that staffing reports, vacancy reports, and training reports, are more geared to a T&M environment. Please clarify the applicability of these reports to different types of task orders (FFP, Performance Based, etc.).

The data elements in the Quarterly Status Reports are meant to assist the government in the overall management of the contract, provide for future procurement planning needs, and to support OMB executive agent requirements.

10. The RFP states that the contractor “Key Personnel are the Program Manager, Group Managers, and other proposed management positions, and all direct billable personnel.” Will the government consider revising the language to remove the language “all direct billable personnel” as this would be extremely burdensome on both the government and the contractor and replace with “key positions as identified in each task order”?

The “all direct billable personnel” will be deleted.

11. Section H.11 – If we have a situation, for example, two or more “solution” projects running simultaneously, where staff need to be reassigned from one project to another project quite often, will the Key Personnel and Personnel Substitutions sections apply in that situation?

The Key Personnel and Personnel Substitutions apply to all Task Orders, and there is no restriction on personnel performing on multiple Task Orders.

12. The second paragraph of H.11 references a “transition team”; H.13 cites “transition” in the title and gives a timeframe of 2 weeks after contract award for the Offerors to be capable of receiving task orders. It is not clear whether the transition referred to in these clauses refers to initial Alliant contract award or task orders during the entire period of performance of the contract, or both. Is it the government’s intent that Offerors bid a full transition team as part of the overhead to support Alliant and its task orders during the life of the contract? Please clarify the transition requirements.

The transition team being referred is for the contract award.

13. Section J, Attachment J, Company Profile Format, Item 3. This section states “Do not submit company logos/graphics or anything in the header/footer areas.” Please confirm that logos and page numbers may be included in the remaining portions of the proposal even if not allowed in Tab 2 for Attachment J, Company Profile Format.”

Company logos and page numbers may be included in the remaining portions of the proposal.

14. Section G.9.3 – Invoices – Can Invoices for T&M and labor hour task orders be submitted based on a 4-week accounting period rather than a previous calendar month?

Billing will be on a monthly cycle unless otherwise annotated in the Task Order.

15. Section G.9.3 – Payment Terms – Will you remove the requirement for the contractor to submit timecards?

Timecard submission or reasonable facsimile is required for verification of time worked under the T&M type Task Order. Each individual task order will define specific payment terms.

16. Section H.17.1.2 – Can a project manager with appropriate technology expertise instead of a group manager be assigned to supervise personnel on a task order requiring complex solutions?

The Group Manager concept is being evaluated. The Government is reviewing your suggested change and any changes will be reflected in the Final RFP.

17. Section H.19.2 – Does prior Approval of Travel apply to fixed priced task orders?

All travel must be approved in advance.

18. Reference Section B, page 4, paragraph B.9, 3rd paragraph, states that “Work is not authorized in areas the State Department has warned Americans not to travel to or to areas the U.S. State Department has issued Danger Pay differentials.” Work is currently being performed under the Millennia contract in these areas. We assume that unauthorized work areas will be identified in each TOR. Please clarify.

Refer to the Department of State website.

19. Inconsistency with Section I – B.3 identifies that the SCA does not apply to this contract based upon its principal purpose; however, the SCA, and its related clauses at FAR 52.222-41, -42, -43 and -47 are present in Section I.

The SCA does not apply to this procurement and clauses in Section I related to the SCA will be removed.

20. Will the requirement for a fully dedicated PM be passed to subs also? Will the fully dedicated PM be a billable labor category? Does fully dedicated PM mean exclusive to Alliant or may that person be a PM on other GWAC?

The PM is a requirement of the Prime and is not a billable labor a category. The Government is reviewing whether this position will be fully dedicated.

21. Please clarify the FAR requirement related to ownership of commercial item intellectual property rights.

Ownership of commercial item intellectual property rights is addressed in FAR 52.227-14 and will be specifically addressed in individual task orders issued.

22. Given the focus of Section 508 and 504 compliance, will the ALLIANT SOW/PWS include a requirement for such hardware, software and services?

Section 504 and 508 requirements are identified at the Task Order level.

23. Section C.1.0 – Scope – There is no explanatory text for Section C.3.10.1 – IT Research and Development on page 8. Please provide.

The Government will review and incorporate this information in the final RFP.

24. Section C.3.11, states “Global Information Systems.” Is this title correct? Or should it state, “GIS-Geographic Information system?” Please clarify.

The terminology should read “geographic”.

25. Since the second five-year period (yrs 6-10) are an option, may a task order period of performance extend beyond the initial five years if the order is placed in years 1-5?

Yes, refer to Alliant Section F.4 Term Of Contract And Orders

26. Were CTO's agencies included in pre-solicitation study groups?

The Chief Technology Officer program offices have been invited and participated in some of the focus groups in the pre-solicitation process.

27. Has OMB approved Alliant and if not will this put the schedule back?

GSA is required to have OMB's concurrence before release of the final RFP.

28. Paragraph B.4 of the DRFP does not identify a breakdown of the types of anticipated task orders (FFP, T&M, LH, CPFF), the type of work anticipated by functional area (SOW Section C), geographic coverage anticipated (x% CONUS / x% OCONUS), nor a breakdown of simple to highly complex task orders. It is requested that this type of information be provided (both from a historical perspective on ANSWER and Millennia) and, if possible, the anticipated under Alliant.

The requirement will determine which contract type is the most advantageous and reasonable.

29. Section L.10, Table 1, Tab 2. This section shows three pages for the company profile. Section J, Attachment J, Company Profile Format, Item 1, shows one page for company profile. Please clarify one or three page limitation for company profile.

The Attachment J is a sample format. There is a maximum three (3) page limitation.

30. Section L.12, Tab 2 – The RFP references provisions of Section G that are not in G. Should the Quarterly Cost Recovery Report refer to Contractor Sales Reporting of G.13.2.2 and Program Manager refer to Program Management?

The Quarterly Cost Recovery Report description is located at Section J, Attachment D, and VIII. "Program" Manager" reference is unclear. We could not locate a Program Management Report description.

31. Will you consider classified appendices to proposal?

Classified appendices will be stipulated at the Task Order level by the client agency.

32. Are there any particular Task Order Request (TOR) procedures set forth in the Alliant Contract(s)? i.e., other than G.8? Desk Guide?

Alliant will establish an Ordering Guide, which will be consistent with the ordering guidance in Section G for using the GWAC.

33. Section H.11 Key Personnel, 3rd paragraph – Add the word “key” to the beginning of the sentence. “Key” personnel... shall not be replaced without prior government approval.

Appropriate changes will be made.

34. We noticed that amendment one was issued. It seemed to remove references to CTA’s in section G. Will there be a provision in the RFP that allows for these types of arrangements?

Alliant Section G.9.3 is under review by the Government and guidance should be available in the final RFP.

35. The 15 April change document deletes some paragraphs from RFP G.9.3 but is confusing in its execution. Did it mean to delete paragraphs 3 through 8 (mod said 6)?

Alliant Section G.9.3, in its entirety, is under review by the Government. The remaining text is still applicable.

36. Please clarify the performance-base criteria. What goals will be measured and what payment terms will be identified for meeting those goals? How will it be managed?

Performance metrics will be established at the Task Order level.

37. The Alliant draft RFP appears to be structured towards traditional government prime contractors on that it includes several government unique contract requirements such as the FAR cost principles, cost accounting standards, and the Truth Negotiations Act. The draft RFP does not include FAR part 12 provisions for procurement of commercial items. Many leading edge commercial companies cannot comply with those government unique contract requirements. This may result in many leading edge commercial companies declining to participate in the Alliant program. This will deprive the government of the advantage of many leading edge commercial technologies and products. Can the RFP be restructured to eliminate these government unique contract requirements at the prime contractor level for fixed price and time and material task orders for procurement of commercial items to enable more commercial companies to participate as prime contractors?

No, Alliant is not a FAR Part 12 Procurement. All clauses have been reviewed for applicability.

38. Section B.9, Fully Loaded Labor Rate Table and Section J, Attachment B – This section includes a labor category with the title “Call Center”. The Labor Category Descriptions in Attachment B do not include description for this category. Please provide information.

This change will be reflected in the final RFP.